

# Christmas Traditions

Sunday Morning, December 6, 2015

## Thesis:

Do Your Christmas Traditions Bring Your Focus on to the Birth of Christ Our Savior?

## Introduction:

The Early Church Did Not Celebrate Jesus' Birth

The First Recorded Christmas Celebration was Friday,  
12/25/AD354

Birth of Christ was probably before 12/25, more like Sept or Oct

## I. Our Christmas Season Came From An Ancient Holiday

### Winter Solstice

Tammus, the son of Nimrod and his queen, Semiramis, was identified with the Babylonian Sun God and worshiped following the winter solstice. As the days became shorter and shorter through the winter, they become the shortest at the winter solstice, about Dec. 22-23. Tammuz was thought to have died during the winter solstice, and was memorialized by burning a log in the fireplace. (The replacing the log with a trimmer tree the next morning. Sound familiar? (Jeremiah 10 contains an interesting verse which talks about trimming trees, etc.)

The Yule Log & Misstletoe (Fertility Rite)

### (Jeremiah 10: 1-8)

1 Hear the word that the LORD has spoken to you, house of Israel.

2 This is what the LORD says: Do not learn the way of the nations or be terrified by signs in the heavens, although the nations are terrified by them,

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3 for the customs of the peoples are worthless.

Someone cuts down a tree from the forest; it is worked by the hands of a craftsman with a chisel.

4 He decorates it with silver and gold. It is fastened with hammer and nails, so it won't totter.

5 Like scarecrows in a cucumber patch, their idols cannot speak. They must be carried because they cannot walk. Do not fear them for they can do no harm—and they cannot do any good.

6 Yahweh, there is no one like You. You are great; Your name is great in power.

7 Who should not fear You, King of the nations? It is what You deserve. For among all the wise people of the nations & among all their kingdoms, there is no one like You.

8 They are both stupid and foolish, instructed by worthless idols made of wood! [What appears to be the beginning of Christmas Trees was a focus of worship.](#)

## II. Lace Your Traditions With Christian Values

[Constantine's "Edict of Toleration" AD 313](#)

[Brought Christians Out of Hiding from Persecution](#)

[Forced Christians to Adopt Cultural Change](#)

[Therefore They Integrated Christian Values with Pagan Culture](#)

[For Example, Christmas Trees...There are divided opinions amongst Christians about the use of Christmas Trees \(Luke 23: 26-31\)](#)

26 As they led Him away, they seized Simon, a Cyrenian, who was coming in from the country, & laid the cross on him to carry behind Jesus.

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27 A large crowd of people followed Him, including women who were mourning and lamenting Him.

28 But turning to them, Jesus said, "Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for Me, but weep for yourselves and your children.

29 Look, the days are coming when they will say, 'The women without children, the wombs that never bore and the breasts that never nursed, are fortunate!'

30 Then they will begin to say to the mountains, 'Fall on us!' and to the hills, 'Cover us!'

31 For if they do these things when the wood is green, what will happen when it is dry?"

Here we compare Jesus as the green (living) wood, to the worst judgment that will surely come for the dry (dead) wood of the nation of Israel, who rejected their Messiah.

Therefore, Christ Can Be Seen as the Living Green Tree Represented By Our Christmas Trees with Gifts On it and Around it.

### Gift Exchange (Esther 9: 18-19)

18 But the Jews in Susa had assembled on the thirteenth and the fourteenth days of the month. They rested on the fifteenth day of the month, and it became a day of feasting and rejoicing.

19 This explains why the rural Jews who live in villages observe the fourteenth day of the month of Adar as a time of rejoicing and feasting. It is a holiday when they send gifts to one another. They celebrated their redemption from annihilation plotted by Haman.

Christians celebrate their redemption from sin and God's judgment by repenting of sin and receiving Christ as Savior and Lord.

### III. Grace Is Found In Christmas Traditions Is It Sin?

#### (James 4: 17)

So it is a sin for the person who knows to do what is good and doesn't do it.

#### (I Corinthians 10:31)

Therefore, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do everything for God's glory.

#### Conclusion:

A Paradigm Shift Took Place in Early Christendom When Christian Values Were Integrated Into Pagan Cultural Traditions.

Today, Christians Don't See the Pagan History in Our Traditions. Today, Christians Confront "Commercialism" Against the Birth of Christ.

#### The Question:

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